

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 13, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on September 7, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
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TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

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The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Completion, Former Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Rail Yard Site, Murphysboro, Illinois

On August 3, 2001, the potentially responsible party (PRP) removal action was completed at the former Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Rail Yard site in Murphysboro, Illinois. The removal action was funded by the PRP pursuant to a Unilateral Administrative Order. It was discovered that a mobile home trailer park was built on top of the former rail yard and that there were elevated levels of lead, pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxin, and benzo-a-pyrene. The PRP bought out 25 residents who relocated to different housing. The mobile homes were washed and transported to a local landfill for disposal. It took approximately 8 weeks to treat and remove 12,000 tons of contaminated soils. The area was then backfilled with clean material. The site is surrounded by light industrial facilities and residential properties.

Contact: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)

Treatment System Evaluation, Wayne Waste Oil Superfund Site, Columbia City, Indiana

In August 2001, a meeting took place at the Wayne Waste Oil Superfund site in Columbia City, Indiana, to evaluate the soil

and groundwater treatment systems. The U.S. EPA remedial project manager, Indiana Department of Environmental Management project manager, and various private party representatives attended the meeting; and, discussed making additions and alterations to the treatment systems based on current site contaminant information. Operation and maintenance changes are scheduled to be finalized in another meeting before the end of 2001.

The Wayne Waste Oil Superfund site (also known as Wayne Reclamation) is approximately 30 acres in size, and includes a municipal waste landfill, groundwater pump and treatment system, air sparging system, slurry wall, and soil vapor extraction system. The Wayne Waste Oil site is currently in operation and maintenance.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Briefing (Groundwater Modeling, Menomonee Valley), Milwaukee Sentinel-Journal, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On June 29, 2001, Jane Neumann from the Brownfields and Early Action Section and Mick Hans of the Office of Public Affairs met with reporters and members of the Sentinel-Journal editorial board to explain the findings from groundwater modeling in the Menomonee Valley. The briefing, arranged by U.S. EPA, included representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the City of Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). The USGS found through its models that most of the groundwater movement in the contaminated areas of the industrial portions of the Valley is downward to the deep tunnel system maintained by the MMSD. This finding reduces concerns about contamination reaching the Menomonee River and affecting fish and humans. The findings had been sought by a reporter for the paper who covers issues about the MMSD's deep tunnel. The tunnel's capacity is controversial in the wake of several overflows, releases, and system back-ups during storms this Summer. The reporter felt these findings add to concerns that the system's leakage is contributing to capacity problems. The reporters and editors asked many questions after the USGS technical presentation. They were particularly interested in U.S. EPA's perspective about the paving over of contaminated areas as a remedy, and the further ecosystem problems that solution creates. It appeared numerous

misconceptions were dispelled about the impact of this contaminated water reaching the deep tunnel system and the sewage treatment plant, and ultimately going to Lake Michigan.

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TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Meeting, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Springfield, Illinois

On September 5, 2001, Joseph Dufficy, Jeanne Griffin, and Brooke Furio of the Brownfields & Early Action Section were invited to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Office of Site Evaluations Fiscal 2001 Recap/Fiscal 2002 Planning meeting. Recently, Illinois EPA reorganized making the old Site Assessment Section an Office. Gary King, Manager of the Division of Remediation Management, explained that this move allows them to better serve the entire agency in site investigations. Tom Crause and the entire Office of Site Evaluation's staff attended the meeting. Brooke Furio gave an overview of U.S. EPA's Brownfields Initiative and described the roles and responsibilities of the Region 5 Brownfields Project Managers. There are currently nine Brownfields Assessment Pilots in Illinois. Joseph Dufficy and Jeanne Griffin lead a discussion on Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) work and objectives. Joseph Dufficy also lead a discussion on the removal coordination between the site assessment and brownfields programs. Finally, the U.S. EPA Region 5 group was involved in a discussion concerning the user's responsibility when using the U.S. EPA Contract Lab Program. The group discussed issues pertaining to work plans, labeling, shipping, data requests, and data tracking.

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